

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please add the following new heading and paragraphs after paragraph [0008]:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0008.1] Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the inventive support and traction means;

[0008.2] Fig. 2 is a cross-section through Fig. 1;

[0008.3] Fig. 3 is a perspective view of another embodiment of the invention;

[0008.4] Fig. 4 is a cross-section through Fig. 3;

[0008.5] Fig. 5 is a perspective view of yet another embodiment of the invention;

[0008.6] Fig. 6 is a cross-section through Fig. 5;

[0008.7] Fig. 7 is a perspective view of a further embodiment of the invention; and

[0008.8] Fig. 8 is a cross-section through Fig. 7.

Please replace paragraph [0009] with the following amended paragraph:

[0009] A first object of the present invention is to provide a drive-capable support or traction means (1, 9, 20, 24) with at least one layer of strands (2, 3; 10, 11; 21; 25) of synthetic fiber material and an outer casing (4; 12; 22; 26) which encases the support or traction means (1, 9, 20, 24), in which wear of the support or traction means (1, 9, 20, 24) is reduced and in which the entry of disadvantageous effects like heat development, prematurely occurring stiction and twisting of the support or traction means at higher traction forces is deflected.

Please replace paragraph [0010] with the following amended paragraph:

[0010] A further object of the present invention is to provide a drive-capable support or tension means (1, 9, 20, 24) which allows maximum functionality with minimum diameter.

Please replace paragraph [0011] with the following amended paragraph:

[0011] The fulfilment of these objects is to be compatible with current and proven methods for the production of drive-capable support or traction means (1, 9, 20, 24).

Please replace paragraph [0012] with the following amended paragraph:

[0012] Pursuant to these objects, and others which will become apparent hereafter, one aspect of the present invention resides in selectively incorporating a lubricant in a drive-capable support or traction means (1, 9, 20, 24) in such a manner that the lubricant is admixed as dry lubricant with an impregnant of the strands (5, 6; 13, 14; 23; 27) and/or the lubricant is admixed with a material of the outer casing (4; 12; 22; 26) and/or the lubricant is applied as wet lubricant to at least one outer surface of the strands (5, 6; 13, 14; 23; 27) and/or the lubricant is admixed with the material of an intermediate casing (15) and/or the lubricant is applied to an intermediate casing (15).

Please replace paragraph [0013] with the following amended paragraph:

[0013] Advantageously the outer casing (4; 12) accepting traction forces and the strands (5, 6; 13, 14) accepting traction forces are lubricated by way of lubricant in direct mutual contact. This direct mutual contact of outer casing (4; 12) and strands (5; 13) takes place according to first contact regions (7;

16) by a fixed connection, preferably in material couple.

Advantageously a melting of the outer casing (4; 12) with strands takes place at least regionally in the first contact region (7; 16). Advantageously such a melting of the outer casing (4; 12) with strands is carried out during extrusion of the outer casing (4; 12) onto the strands (5; 13), wherein matrix material of the strands (5; 13) is melted on. The matrix material of the strands (5; 13) advantageously has at least one additive to assist the material couple. For example, such an additive lowers the melting point of the matrix material of the strands (5; 13). Through this fixed connection between the outer casing (4; 12) and the strands (5; 13), traction forces from the drive pulley can be effectively introduced into the strands (5; 13) without giving rise to a disadvantageous heat development or prematurely occurring stiction. In the case of support or traction means with several strand layers (2, 3; 10, 11) the first contact regions (7; 16) extend between the outer casing (4; 12) and strands (5; 13) of an outer strand layer (2; 10).

Please replace paragraph [0014] with the following amended paragraph:

[0014] Advantageously first contact regions (7; 16) between

the outer casing (4; 12) and the strands (5; 13) are free of lubricant at least at the instant of application of the outer casing (4; 12).

Please replace paragraph [0015] with the following amended paragraph:

[0015] Advantageously the strands (5, 6; 13, 14) accepting traction forces are in direct contact, lubricated by way of lubricant, with one another. This direct mutual contact of the strands (5, 6; 13, 14) takes place in accordance with second contact regions (8; 17). By contrast to US Patent No. US 5 881 843, the use of strand casings is avoided. Advantageously the strands (5, 6; 13, 14) are lubricated for a movement relative to one another with a selectable coefficient of friction. The coefficient of friction between strands (5, 6; 13, 14) is selected to be sufficiently low so that the strands (5, 6; 13, 14) during bending at the drive pulley can execute a relative movement without a disadvantageous cable twisting taking place. A disadvantageous displacement or compression of strands (5; 13), which are in contact with the outer casing (4; 12), is thus avoided. In the case of support or traction means with several strand layers (2, 3; 10, 11), second contact regions (8; 17) are

disposed not only in outer strand layers (2; 10), but also in inner strand layers (3; 11).

Please replace paragraph [0016] with the following amended paragraph:

[0016] Advantageously in the case of use of several strand layers (10, 11) there is a separation of at least one outer strand layer (10) and one inner strand layer (11) by at least one intermediate casing (15). The intermediate casing (15) increases the torsional stiffness of the support or traction means (9). The intermediate casing (15) and the strand layers (13, 14) are in direct contact, lubricated by way of lubricant, with one another.

The direct mutual contact of the intermediate casing (15) and the outer strand layer (10) takes place in accordance with third contact regions (18) and the direct mutual contact of the intermediate casing (15) and the inner strand layer (11) takes place in accordance with fourth contact regions (19).

Please replace paragraph [0017] with the following amended paragraph:

[0017] Advantageously PU and/or polyester is used as the

material of the outer or intermediate casing (12, 15).

Advantageously the casing (12, 15) completely encloses the strands.

Please replace paragraph [0018] with the following amended paragraph:

[0018] In a first preferred embodiment, third and fourth contact regions (18, 19) between the intermediate casing (15) and the outer (10) and inner (11) strand layers are lubricated for a movement relative to one another with a selectable coefficient of friction. Advantageously the coefficient of friction between the strands (13, 14) or between the strands (13, 14) and the intermediate casing (15) is in the region of 0.01 and 0.60. Advantageously the coefficient of friction between strands (13, 14) and the intermediate casing (15) is higher by at least 0.05, preferably 0.10, than that between the strands (13, 14). Thus, under the action of external forces on the support or traction means (9) a relative movement of the strands (13, 14) is facilitated in a targeted manner and a relative movement between inner strand layers (11) and the intermediate casing (15) is made more difficult in a targeted manner

Please replace paragraph [0019] with the following amended paragraph:

[[0019] In a further preferred embodiment, third contact regions (18) between the intermediate casing (15) and the outer strand layers (10) are lubricated for movement relative to one another with a selectable coefficient of friction, while fourth contact regions (19) between the intermediate casing (15) and the inner strand layer (11) are fixedly connected and advantageously are disposed in material couple relative to one another. This takes place, analogously to the fixed connection of the outer casing (12) relative to the outer strand layer (10), advantageously by melting together the intermediate casing (15) and the inner strand layer (11), for example during extrusion of the intermediate casing (15) on the inner strand layer (11), wherein matrix material of the strands (14) of the inner strand layer (11) is melted on at least regionally. Advantageously the coefficient of friction between the strands (13, 14) or between the strands (13, 14) and the intermediate casing (15) is in the region of 0.01 and 0.60. Advantageously the coefficient of friction between the intermediate casing (15) and the outer strand layer (10) is higher by at least 0.05, preferably 0.10, than that between the strands (13, 14). Due to the fixed connection between

the intermediate casing (15) and the inner strand layer (11) a movement of the strands (13, 14) relative to one another is made easier in a targeted manner under the action of external forces on the support or traction means (9), a relative movement between the outer strand layer (10) and the intermediate casing (15) is made more difficult in a targeted manner and a relative movement between the intermediate casing (15) and the inner strand layer (11) is prevented in a targeted manner.

Please replace paragraph [0020] with the following amended paragraph:

[0020] The support or traction means (1; 9; 20; 24) consists of synthetic fiber material in the embodiment of cables as single (1; 9) or double cables (20), flat belts (24), cogged belts or poly V-belts.